

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to prospective brokers, said prospective brokers including buyers and bidders, and for collecting bids from said prospective buyers, bidders and brokers in response to said offerings, said method comprising the steps of:
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- providing a broker profile for each prospective broker in a computer-readable record, each broker profile containing one or more entitlement definitions indicating allowable items which a broker may receive;
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- preparing one or more entitled offerings through filtering an available items list according to said broker profiles such that said prepared entitled offerings include only offerings for one or more items to which a broker is allowed offers as defined by the prospective broker's entitlement definitions;
- and
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- presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one or more prospective brokers such that each broker may review his or her entitled offerings.
2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a broker profile with entitlement definitions comprises providing an item category
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- parameter within said entitlement definitions.
3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a broker profile with entitlement definitions comprises providing a broker location parameter within said entitlement definitions.

4. The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of preparing one or more entitled offerings comprises removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a category parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.
5. The method as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said step of preparing one or more entitled offers comprises removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a broker location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.
6. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one or more prospective brokers comprises presenting said entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.
7. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving one or more bids from said prospective brokers via a computer network.
8. The method as set forth in Claim 7 wherein the step of receiving one or more bids comprises receiving bids via a computer network from a web browser system.
9. A computer-readable medium containing computer executable program code for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to prospective brokers, said

prospective brokers including buyers and bidders, and for collecting bids from said prospective buyers and brokers in response to said entitled offerings in a computer network server, said computer program code causing said computer network server to perform the steps of:

- 5 accessing a broker profile for each prospective broker in a computer-readable record, each broker profile containing one or more entitlement definitions indicating allowable items for which a broker may receive offerings;
- 10 preparing one or more entitled offerings through filtering an available items list against said broker profiles such that resulting entitled offerings include only one or more items for which a broker is allowed to receive offerings as defined by the prospective broker's entitlement definitions; and
- 15 presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one or more prospective brokers such that each broker may review his or her entitled offerings.
10. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program code for providing a broker profile with entitlement definitions comprises computer program code for providing an item category parameter within said entitlement definitions.
- 20 11. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program code for providing a broker profile with entitlement definitions comprises

program code for providing a broker location parameter within said entitlement definitions.

12. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said program code for preparing one or more entitled offerings comprises program code for removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a category parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.
13. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said program code for preparing one or more entitled offerings comprises program code for removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a broker location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.
14. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program code for presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one or more prospective brokers comprises program code for presenting said entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.
15. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 further comprising program code for receiving one or more bids from said prospective brokers via a computer network.
16. The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said program code for receiving one or more bids comprises program code for receiving bids via a computer network from a web browser system.

17. An offering system in a computer network for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to brokers, buyers and bidders, herinafter collectively referred to as "brokers", said computer network enabling communications between said sales offering system and broker consoles, said offering system comprising:
- 5 a database containing entitled sales offerings, said database accessible and queriable by network application servers;
- an entitled offering preparation server for preparing entitled offerings through filtering lists of available items against broker entitlement parameters to produce entitled offerings including one or more items to which a broker is entitled to bid, and for storing entitled sales offerings in said database; and
- 10 a network application server for providing sales offerings to broker console computers.
18. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application server is an Internet server.
- 15 19. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application server is a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server.
20. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application server is a secure Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTPS) server.
- 20 21. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application server is adapted for communications with broker console computers which are web browser devices.

22. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein entitled sales offering preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by broker entitlement parameters including a broker location parameter.
23. The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein entitled sales offering preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by broker entitlement parameters including an item category parameter.
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